

Follow Jesus; Mature in Faith; Carry the Good News
At First Mennonite Church

Serving Today: Pastor Sarah Neher Reimer and Pastor Josh Janzen
Hosts: Brad & Amanda Thimm Piano: Vicki Hinz-Ensz
Power point: Christina Lyons Audio: Larry Thimm
Ushers: Lynn Gerber & Brandon Esau Video: Kathy Casey

Last Sunday: Attendance: 92 **Offering:** MCC \$2,427; FMC \$850;
Mother to Mother \$150

Today's Offering: FMC **Next Sunday:** Bethel College

Coming Up:

Sunday, August 16

9:30 am Adult Bible Class
9:30 am Sunday School Planning
10:30 am Faith Formation Sunday
Backpack Blessings; Bibles distributed
1:30 pm WMS Quilting & Tying
9:30 am Adult Bible Class
10:30 am Worship with Bethel College
Interim President Wynn Goering
11:30 am Safe Church Policy Review

Tuesday, August 18

Sunday, August 23

August Birthdays:

1: Miles Esau	6: Steph Janzen, Rebekkah Stutzman
7: Mitch Williamson	
11: Debbie Keeney, Scarlett & Raelynn Heinz	
12: Abby Trantham	16: Jerry Reimer, Kathy Thimm
21: Kyle Baade	22: Gentre Esau, Henry VanderSchaaf
27: Pam Kunzman	29: Pat Penner
31: Samuel VanderSchaaf	

- Our services are on **YouTube:** www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice
- The **bulletin** is at fmcbeatrice.org under documents.
- If you would like to be on the **Prayer Chain**, see Sue Gerber
- If you use the **nursery**, please clean up after using it. Thanks!
- Ask an usher for assistance with a **hearing device**.
- **We collect** Best Choice labels & used cards and envelopes.
- **Food Pantry items** go in the box in the narthex. Checks for the food pantry may be put in the offering plate.
- **Men's Brotherhood Project?** Contact Dan Kunzman or LeRoy Janzen.
- **Farmer's Market**, Thursday's 4-6:30 pm, 6th & High Streets

Address: 6714 W. State Hwy. 4, Beatrice, NE 68310 **Website:** fmcbeatrice.org

Pastors: Josh Janzen; 402-631-3481; pastorjosh@fmcbeatrice.org
Sarah Neher; 507-993-6820; sarah@fmcbeatrice.org. Her office hours are generally Sundays & Tuesdays, 9-12; Wednesdays, 1-8; Fridays 9-2

Church Office: 402-251-7180 **Email:** office@fmcbeatrice.org

Deacons: Sue Gerber (402-239-8857), Don Esau (402-223-9210),
Vicki Hinz-Ensz (402-239-4174), **Church Chair:** Brett Esau (402-520-9100)

Welcome to First Mennonite Church
August 16, 2026- Faith Formation Sunday



Welcome and Call to Worship

One: We come today carrying all the ways we have learned to measure greatness.

By success. By power. By achievement. By influence. By being noticed.

All: And Jesus says, Look again.

One: We come with our carefully constructed ideas about who matters, who belongs, and whose voice should be heard.

All: And Jesus says, Look again.

One: For the kingdom of God is not built on the ladders we climb or the status we earn.

It is found in the people we overlook, the ones we push aside, the ones we have decided are too small to matter.

All: Jesus, teach us to see again.

One: So today, we return to the basics: We are beloved, we belong to God, we do not have to earn our worth.

All: We are beloved children of God.

One: And from that belovedness, we are invited to live differently—to make room, to welcome, to love, to seek justice, and to participate in God's work of bringing heaven to earth.

All: May we receive God's love, and may that love transform the way we see one another.

One: Come, let us worship the God who reminds us who we are and shows us what greatness really looks like.

Prayer

Hymn 1: "Summoned by the God Who Made Us"

Confession and Assurance

One: Let us confess the ways we have forgotten what Jesus teaches us about greatness.

All: God of love, we confess that we are easily impressed by what the world calls great. We chase success, recognition, and status, and sometimes overlook those the world considers small. We confess that in our striving to prove our worth, we forget that we are already beloved. Remind us that our worth is not something we achieve, but something we receive from you.

One: Hear the good news: Before we accomplish anything, we are beloved. Before we prove anything, we belong to God.

All: We are beloved children of God.

One: And because we are loved, we are free to love. Because we belong, we can make room for others and join in God's work of bringing heaven to earth.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Offering Hymn 420: "God of the Bible"

(Offering for First Mennonite Church)

Children's Story/Backpack Blessing

Pastor Sarah

Scripture Mark 10:13-16 (Book of Belonging p.219)

Sermon: "You Are Beloved"

Pastor Sarah

Hymn 112: "Womb of Life and Source of Being"

Blessing of Bibles & Prayer Partners

Pastor Sarah

Sharing and Prayer

Benediction

Sending Song 509: "See the Children Here Before Us"

Passing the Peace

Welcome to all worshiping with us here and on YouTube. For easy access, bookmark this link: www.youtube.com/c/fmcbeatrice and "Like" it and subscribe. The bulletin is at fmcbeatrice.org under the documents tab.

Today, August 16th, is Faith Formation Sunday. All children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks for a blessing to start the school year! Bibles will be given to children entering kindergarten and third grade.

Sunday School Planning: All Sunday School teachers are invited to a breakfast and planning session for the fall on August 16, at 9:30 in the fellowship hall!

Safe Church Policy: For the last year and a half a committee has been working to update and expand our Safe Church Policy to cover adults and create a protocol if there is ever an allegation of abuse involving children or adults. There are two opportunities to learn about the policy. We hope everyone in the congregation will attend!

- **August 23rd**, following the worship service: an overview of the policy highlighting the changes and additions.
- **August 30th**, following the worship service: required training for all adults who work with youth.

Wynn Goering, Interim President of Bethel College, will share with us on Sunday, August 23 during Sunday School and Worship what's happening at Bethel College.

You're invited to join the Adult Bible Class in September as they study the book "Loving Your Neighbor as Yourself", intentional and powerful learning for those called to serve the vulnerable. (by Ruby K. Payne, Ph.D.)

Peace Club will kick off Wednesday, **September 16**, with exciting activities and snacks for members K - 5th grade, and prayer partners. Meet at the church from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Families will receive the fall schedule at this first meeting. Please RSVP if you cannot attend to Jane @ 402-223-8206 or janeneufeldesau@gmail.com. Thank you! We're looking forward to a great year!
--Kathy Casey, Barb Thimm, Jane Esau

New phone & address: Mary Jane Zimmerman, 2211 Sunset Dr, apt 126, Beatrice, NE, 68310. 402-239-6748.

FMC Wednesday evening Community Events will start in September. We will again eat a meal together, visit, and enjoy time together in various ways. We invite **all age groups** to come; the evening is very informal and provides us with an opportunity to spend time together.

• **September 2, 6:30 pm** – Meal and intergenerational games (we will be asking some of the older adults to sit with a child and assist them in learning to play games like Dutch Blitz, Rook, Checkers, etc.)

• **October 7, 6:30 pm** – Meal and care packages for college age students

• **November 4, 6:30 pm** – Meal and "showing gratitude and generosity" activities

In September at FMC: Sept 2, 6:30, Community Meal

Sept 9, 6:30 pm JYF & SYF meet

Sept 13, Sunday School begins; 11:30 Congregational meeting

Sept 16, 6:30 pm Peace Club begins

Ways to help support our Wednesday Community Event

Ø Help set up tables and chairs (8 tables with 8 chairs). *We will do this following church on the last Sunday of the month.*

Ø Donate toward the cost of food (a basket will be available the evening of the event, or you can put a donation in the offering plate with a memo indicating the donation is for the Wednesday Community Event)

Ø Setup for Wednesday Community meal – a sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board (or contact Vicki Hinz-Ensz; 402-239-4174) Setup will include picking up items/supplies needed for the meal and getting drinks, plates, silverware and meal set out by 6:15 pm

Ø Pray for our community events

Ø Come join in!

The MCC Material Resources Center in North Newton is running critically low on sewn **school kit bags**. If you can sew bags, MCC will add the strings to tie them. Please contact Brocia Mueller at brociamueller@mcc.org for instructions and questions. *30,000 school kits for 30,000 children by August 31!*

MCC Beyond the Headlines: **Haiti, Temporary Protected Status, and the Church webinar** Wednesday, August 19 at 1 p.m. CT. Hear stories from a pastor, MCC staff member, and a non-profit group providing humanitarian, legal, and social services to Haitian communities. Register at mcc.org/events.

Support the future of **local transit services** for the elderly and disabled provided by Blue Rivers Area Agency on Aging! **Trivia Night** is August 27 at 7 p.m. at the Community center in Pickrell. Entry fee is \$100 per team with 6-person max. Freewill donation Nacho Bar available. Call 402-223-1376 to register your team! Held in conjunction with Big Give Gage for transit services.

A **Buick key Fob** was found. It's near the mailboxes.